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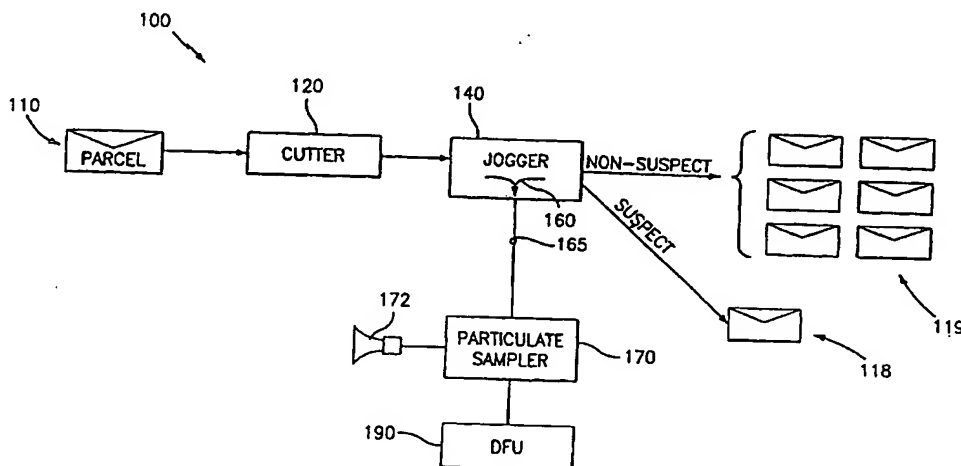
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(54) Title: METHOD AND APPARATUS TO DETECT GENUINE OR HOAX CONTAMINANTS



(57) Abstract: A system (100) and method for detecting contaminants in parcels or other mailings (110). The contaminants, either genuine or hoax, are detected using the system (100) that includes a jogger (140) that shakes the parcels or other mailings (110). The system (100) further comprises a particle sampler (170) that analyzes the air flow created over the parcels (110) while the parcels are shaken. The system (100) and method preferable includes a parcel opening cutter (120) and a ram (148) for compressing during the shaking of the parcels. The air flow is sampled in order to detect whether or not a plurality of opened parcels is suspected of including contaminants such as biological threat material.

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